



NEWS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Valley City and Latino Community Stakeholders Develop Plan for Improving Communications and Strengthening Community Relations

West Valley City – In a document signed on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, West Valley City and various Latino community stakeholders have outlined a plan to improve the relationship between West Valley City and the Latino community. The plan was developed with the assistance of the United States Department of Justice, and is the first of it's kind for a community in Utah.

"We are pleased to have developed this plan with the Latino community to help us improve our relationship not only with them but with the other diverse communities throughout our city," says West Valley City Acting Police Chief Anita Schwemmer. "We appreciate every individual who has worked with us to share their invaluable experience and expertise."

"I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with West Valley City in the interest of the community," says Tony Yapias with Proyecto Latino. "We are very pleased with the outcome."

The document outlines commitments from both parties:

- ☐ West Valley City will provide Cultural Competency Training for all city staff on a department-to-department basis.
- ☐ The West Valley City Police Department will utilize the assistance of Utah Coalition of La Raza to review Police Department policy.
- ☐ The West Valley City Police Department, Proyecto Latino and Utah Coalition of La Raza will collaborate and hold community meetings that foster community trust, improve open communications and strengthen community relations.
- ☐ West Valley city commits to fully re-staff the West Valley City Police Department to or exceeding 2013 staffing levels of 188 FTE.
- ☐ The West Valley City Police Chief will personally handle and resolve all community complaints on supervisory staff of the West Valley City Police Department.



- ☐ The West Valley City Police Department will provide online access to the department's Citizen Complaint Form, and will translate the form into Spanish, Vietnamese and other languages as appropriate.
- ☐ The West Valley City Police Department will provide Utah Coalition of La Raza and Proyecto Latino with data on Police Department race and ethnic staffing demographics, a summary of officer recruitment methods and a breakdown of how many of the 124 cases involving Latinos were dismissed through April 17, 2013.
- ☐ Proyecto Latino will hold public "Know Your Rights Forum(s)" for Latino community members to help foster a better understanding of law enforcement procedures and to strengthen community trust.
- ☐ The West Valley City Police Department will be provided with Cultural Competency Training models and a Police Roll Call Training version.
- ☐ Utah Coalition of La Raza will inform the West Valley City Police Department of opportunities to further strengthen Police and Latino community relations.

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